

## Theological Equipping Class – Disciple Making

### Making Disciples (Discipling) in the Scriptures:

- *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-9*
- *“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world...<sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” - John 17:18-21*
- *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” – Matthew 4:19*
- *“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:18-20*

### **What is Discipling?**

- *“Discipling is deliberately doing spiritual good to someone so that he or she will be more like Christ.” - Dever*
- *More Simply: “Helping others to follow Jesus”*
- *“Making disciples is helping other believers grow in Christ-likeness. Jesus has designed his church to be a body (1 Cor. 12), a kingdom of citizens and a family who actively build each other up into the fullness of Christ (Eph. 2:19; 4:13, 29). We are called to instruct each other about Christ (Rom. 15:14) and to imitate others who are following Christ (1 Cor. 4:16, 11:1; 2 Thess. 3:7, 9). As disciples, we are to intentionally pour into other disciples so they can pour into still others (2 Tim. 2:1-2).” – Garrett Kell (pastor/author)*

### **Who Should Disciple?**

- All Christians are Disciples of Jesus therefore all Christians are called to disciple
- All Christians are equipped to disciple
  - *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” – 1 Peter 2:9*
  - *“Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak” (Ex. 4:11-12).*
- God is the one who changes the heart
  - *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” – 1 Corinthians 3:6-7*
  - *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” - 2 Corinthians 4:7*
- *“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from*

*whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” - Ephesians 4:11-16*

- *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” – Colossians 3:16*
- *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” - Hebrews 10:24-25*

### Nature of Discipling: Lead them to Jesus

- *“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.” – Colossians 1:28-29*
- *“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” – 1 Corinthians 11:1*
- *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” – John 13:34*
- *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Mark 10:45*
- *“For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” – 1 Peter 2:21*
- *“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” – Philippians 2:3-5*
- *“The greatest need of my people is my personal holiness.” – Robert Murray M’Cheyne*
- *“Keep a close watch on your life and doctrine. Persist in this, for so by doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.” – 1 Timothy 4:16*
- *“My congregation needs me to be humble before they need me to be smart. They need me to be honest more than they need me to be a dynamic leader. They need me to be teachable more than they need me to teach at conferences. If your walk matches your talk, if your faith costs you something, if being a Christian is more than a cultural garb, they will listen to you.” – Kevin DeYoung*
- *“Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.” – Philippians 4:1*
- *“For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?” – 1 Thessalonians 2:19*

### How to Make Disciples

#### **First Steps:**

- 1. Pray
- 2. Build Relationships:

#### **1. Individual and in Groups**

- Individual: Find someone you want to learn from and ask them to mentor/disciple you
- Groups: Find or create a group of people with the goal of mutually discipling one another

#### **2. Formal and Informal**

- Formal: A regular, defined time to meet for discipleship
- Informal:

- “We always need to be intentional, but we don’t always need to be structured (Formal). In fact, Deuteronomy 6 shows us that discipleship happens “when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Every moment presents an opportunity to discuss who God is and what he’s doing. Since we are always following Jesus, we always have the opportunity to help others follow him as well.” – Garrett Kell (Pastor in Virginia)
- Surround yourself with people you want to be like
- Find ways to “Overlap Life”

### **3. Continuous and Seasonal**

- Continuous: You should be continuously disciplined in prayer, Bible reading, theology, etc.
- Season: Disciplining could take different forms in different seasons

### **4. Watch and be Watched (Creepy)**

- Watch Other’s:
  - *“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”* – Hebrews 13:7
  - *“Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.”* – Philippians 3:17
- Be Watched: In a humble way, allow other to watch you follow Christ

### **5. Be Available and Intentional**

#### **Last Thing: Parenting**

- Fathers:
  - “If succeeding as a pastor means failing as a parent, you’ve already failed as a pastor.” - Eugene Peterson
- Mothers: Monica, Susanna Wesley

## **Appendix: A Discippler's Daily Itinerary by Jonathan Leeman (9Marks.org)**

It is one thing to say that Christians should be involved in discipling relationships. It is another thing to figure out what this looks like practically. When do you do it? How do you do it? What does it look like?

In order to present as clear a picture as possible, here is what a day's schedule might look like for a typical Christian husband and father who has heard Jesus' call to be a fisher of men.

**6:00 a.m.** - Shower & dress

**6:30 a.m.** - Devotions: Bible reading & praying. Pray for family, day's events, discipling relationships, evangelistic opportunities, the church, etc.

**7:00 a.m.** - Help kids get ready

**7:30 a.m.** - Meet fellow church member Paul at nearby coffee shop for breakfast; discuss chapter of D. A. Carson book; discuss marriage and parenting; ask about his other Christian and non-Christian relationships

**8:30 a.m.** - Work

**12:30 p.m.** - Lunch with non-Christian co-worker; discuss faith

**1:30 p.m.** - Work

**5:30 p.m.** - Pick up items at store for dinner for wife; bring Ken, single man in the church who lives nearby. Ask deliberate questions about his life.

**6:30 p.m.** - Dinner; family worship; play with kids; bedtime routine

**8:45 p.m.** - Desert with wife and the Smiths in the living room, a younger couple in the church who are struggling in their marriage; conversations about marriage and prayer

**10:15 p.m.** - Prayer with wife and bed.

On the one hand, that schedule is all very neat. Life never quite fits into 30 and 60 minute blocks. You know that. Any given day might have more time with family, doing home repair, taking kids to swim lesson, working late, or a hundred other things.

Still, it gives you the picture of a fairly average discipler. Nothing exceptional or groundbreaking, but hopefully faithful and deliberate amidst the many stewardships of life that God gives. Four touch points outside the family (breakfast, lunch, errand, dessert) might be unusual—one to three would be more typical. And some days, there might be none.